

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00
DHA-05 EUR-12 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SY-05 A-01
OPR-02 CU-04 /088 W
-----109296 231522Z /46

O 231440Z SEP 77
FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8941
INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN
AMCONSUL DURBAN
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
USMISSION GENEVA
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, PINS, SF
SUBJECT: STEVE BIKO'S DEATH: SITREP AS OF 1500 SEPT. 23

REF: PRETORIA 4979

1. ON SEPTEMBER 22, HLAKU KENNETH RACHIDI, PRESIDENT OF
BLACK PEOPLE'S CONVENTION (BPC), CALLED FOR CALM AND
DISCIPLINE AT SEPTEMBER 25 FUNERAL OF STEVEN BIKO IN
KING WILLIAMS TOWN (KWT). RACHIDI REITERATED NON-
RACIALISM OF BPC TO ASSURE WHITES INTERESTED IN ATTENDING
SERVICE. BPC STATEMENTS FOLLOW SENSATIONALIST BANNER
HEADLINES IN TWO SEPTEMBER 22 AFRIKAANS NEWSPAPERS
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THAT VIOLENCE WAS EXPECTED IN KWT OVER SEPTEMBER 25 WEEKEND.
ENGLISH PAPERS DID NOT CARRY REPORT, AND THE EDITOR OF AFRIKAANS
"OGGENBLAD", HARALD PAKENDORF, TOLD US THAT STORIES WERE
SENSATIONALISM BASED ON REPORTS OF ONE REPORTER.

2. IN APPARENT REACTION TO BIKO DEATH, CURRENT CHAIRMAN AND SIX
PAST CHAIRMEN OF THE JOHANNESBURG

BAR COUNCIL SIGNED A SEPTEMBER 22 STATEMENT SUBMITTED BY THE COUNCIL ON DETENTION WITHOUT TRIAL. THRUST OF STATEMENT WAS THAT "IF DETENTION WITHOUT TRIAL IS TO BE RETAINED AS PART OF OUR LAW, THEN THE ACT MUST BE CHANGED SO AS TO PERMIT REGULAR AND FREQUENT VISITS TO A DETAINEE BY A LAWYER, A PRIVATE DOCTOR OR OTHER REPRESENTATIVE OF HIS FAMILY--IF NECESSARY UNDER POLICE SUPERVISION. THESE REFORMS WOULD CERTAINLY NOT MAKE DETENTION WITHOUT TRIAL ACCEPTABLE, BUT THEY WOULD GO SOME WAY TO PROTECT THE LIVES AND PHYSICAL SAFETY OF DETAINEES."

3. SEPTEMBER 23 PRESS CONTINUED REPORTS ON POLICE FIRING UPON BIKO MOURNERS IN SOWETO THE PREVIOUS DAY. ACCORDING TO CHIEF OF CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION, COL. TONY VISSER, PRELIMINARY RESULTS OF POLICE INVESTIGATION OF 15-YEAR OLD YOUTH FOUND SHOT DEAD REVEALED YOUTH HAD BEEN STRUCK WITH BIRDSHOT OF SAME TYPE EMPLOYED BY POLICE AT THE TIME. VISSER SAID INQUEST WILL BE HELD. OF TWO GIRLS SHOT ELSEWHERE IN SOWETO, ONE TOLD PRESS FROM HOSPITAL THAT SHE WAS PASSING BY A CHURCH FULL OF MOURNERS AND HAD NOT BEEN ATTENDING THE SERVICE WHEN POLICE OPENED FIRE.

4. SPECULATIONS ABOUT THE POLITICAL RAMIFICATIONS OF BIKO DEATH IN DETENTION WITHIN THE NATIONAL PARTY HAVE DIED OUT. ACCORDING TO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PRESS SOURCES, JUSTICE MINISTER KURGER HAS REFUSED TO SAY ANYTHING FURTHER ON THE CASE OR EVEN TO CONFIRM OR DENY PREVIOUSLY REPORTED REMARKS.
BOWDLER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DEATHS, PUBLIC ATTITUDES, INTERMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 23-Sep-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977PRETOR05015
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
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Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
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Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
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SAS ID: 1152652
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Status: NATIVE
Subject: STEVE BIKO'S DEATH: SITREP AS OF 1500 SEPT. 23
TAGS: PINT, PINS, SF, (BIKO, STEVEN)
To: STATE
Type: TE
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